

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for initializing a push-to-talk call over a wireless communication network, comprising:

receiving via a wireless communication network, a push-to-talk initialization request from a calling handset, the request identifying a recipient handset currently having no communicative links with the calling handset;

establishing a communicative link between the calling handset and the recipient handset, including creating an announce message corresponding to the push-to-talk initialization request;

addressing the announce message to the recipient handset;

broadcasting the announce message over the wireless communication network, wherein the announce message is transmitted over a plurality of base stations the plurality of base stations covering a geographic region where the recipient handset is expected to be located; and

receiving via one of the plurality of base stations an acknowledgement message in response to the announce message; and

transmitting a connection status message to the calling handset to instruct the calling handset to open an audio channel in response to receiving the acknowledgement message.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication network is a code division multiple access network.
3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2, wherein the broadcasting step further comprises sending the announce message in a control channel.
4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3, wherein the control channel is a forward common control channel.
5. (CANCELED)
6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the acknowledgement message is received in a control channel.
7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 6, wherein the control channel is a reverse enhanced access channel.
8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A system for initializing a push-to-talk call over a wireless communication network, comprising:
  - a target handset configured for over the air communication in a wireless communication network;
  - a plurality of base stations configured to communicate over the air with the target handset, wherein a push-to-talk announce message is broadcast to the target handset over the plurality of base stations, the plurality of base stations covering a geographic region where the target handset is expected to be located, the push-to-talk announce message originating from a calling handset currently having no established communicative links with the target handset, the push-to-talk announce message configured to establish a communicative link with the target handset,

wherein a first base station receives an acknowledgement message from the target handset in response to the announce message; and

wherein the first base station is configured to open an audio channel in response to the acknowledgement message.

9. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 8, wherein the wireless communication network is a code division multiple access network.

10. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 9, further comprising a plurality of control channels in the wireless communication network, wherein the push-to-talk announce message is broadcast to the target handset in a forward common control channel.

11. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 8, further comprising a push-to-talk server, wherein the push-to-talk server initiates the push-to-talk announce message.

12. (CANCELED)

13. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 8, wherein the acknowledgement message is received by the first base station in a control channel.

14. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 13, wherein the control channel is a reverse enhanced access channel.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for initializing a push-to-talk call between a calling handset and a recipient handset ~~call~~ over a wireless communication network, comprising:

receiving at a base station via a reverse link channel in a wireless communication network, a push-to-talk initialization request from a calling handset, the request identifying a single recipient handset currently having no communicative links with the calling handset;

establishing a communicative link between the calling handset and the recipient handset, including converting the reverse link channel push-to-talk initialization request to an internet protocol push-to-talk initialization request message;

sending the internet protocol push-to-talk initialization request message to a push-to-talk server;

creating an internet protocol push-to-talk announce message corresponding to the internet protocol push-to-talk initialization request;

sending the internet protocol push-to-talk announce message to a plurality of base stations covering a geographic region where the recipient handset is expected to be located;

creating at each of the plurality of base stations a control channel push-to-talk announce message addressed to the recipient handset;

broadcasting the control channel push-to-talk announce message from the plurality of base stations; and

receiving from the recipient handset an acknowledgement message corresponding to the push-to-talk announce message at a first base station via a reverse link channel; and

opening an audio channel between the calling handset and the recipient handset in response to the acknowledgement message corresponding to the push-to-talk announce message.

16. (NEW) The method of claim 15, wherein the wireless communication network is a code division multiple access network.

17. (NEW) The method of claim 15, wherein the broadcasting step further comprises sending the announce message in a control channel.
18. (NEW) The method of claim 17, wherein the control channel is a forward common control channel.
19. (NEW) The method of claim 15, wherein the acknowledgement message is received in a control channel.
20. (NEW) The method of claim 19, wherein the control channel is a reverse enhanced access channel.